

DCVAMC Honored with the McNulty Award

Washington DC VA Medical Center (DCVAMC) has been recognized for its leadership in delivering outstanding health care to veterans.

The Healthcare Council of the National Capital Area honored DCVAMC with the McNulty Award, acknowledging the hospital for consistently providing high quality care. DCVAMC is the first Federal facility to receive this honor.

The Healthcare Council is an association of health care providers, schools and health-related institutions serving Virginia, Maryland and the District.

The McNulty Award, named for Matthew (Matt) McNulty, Jr., SC.D., a model communicator, organizer and leader, dedicated to providing excellence in health care. He served more than 20 plus as a leader on the Board and Executive Committee of the Healthcare Council.



Left to right: Joseph Burns, President of the Healthcare Council, National Capital Area; Dr. Omega Silva, George Washington University Hospital and Fernando O. Rivera, Medical Center Director, at the recent McNulty Award Ceremony.



WWII Veteran Receives French Legion of Honor Medal

By a decree signed by the President of the Republic, World War II veteran Darrell Bush "chevalier" of the French Legion of Honor. Mr. Schaffhouser, Consul General of France in Washington, D.C., presented the medal to Mr. Bush during a ceremony at the French Embassy in Washington.

Mr. Bush is a resident of Camp Springs and a patient at the Washington DCVA Medical Center. He is accompanied by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy, by his side.

This is one of the highest awards we present. It is a sign of France's gratitude for your personal contribution to the liberation of our country during World War II," Mr. Schaffhouser said during the ceremony.

Injured in the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Bush was

awarded the medal for his part in helping to liberate France from Germany during World War II.

Mr. Bush served in the U.S. Army as a scout as part of the 75th Division, nicknamed the "Diaper Division" due to the unit's inexperience and the average soldier's age of 19 years.

"We were just kids," Bush said. Although his division was one of the last to join the war, they made up for it by fighting 94 straight days during the Ardennes Campaign and Colmar Pocket. Historians often credit the 75th with helping stop the German offensive and advance into Belgium. In fact, their valiant efforts caused the unit's nickname to change from "Diaper Division" to "The Bulge Busters".

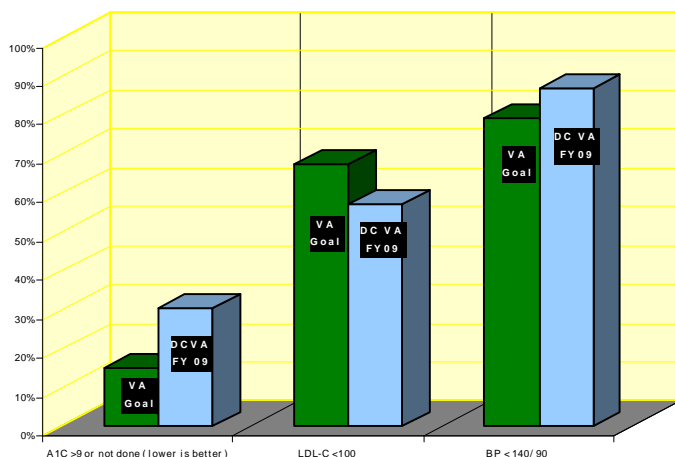
Quality Corner

Diabetes is a serious chronic disease that affects almost 24 million Americans. Diabetes is managed through diet, activity, and medication. Our staff at the DCVAMC is committed to assist you. Some things you can do to control your diabetes are:

- Eat the foods and portion sizes that your provider, nurse and dietician recommend
- Stay active by following your provider's advice
- Have your blood and urine tests performed as ordered by your provider
- Have your eyes examined yearly by an eye specialist
- Take the right dose of medications ordered by your doctor at the right time of the day
- Be sure to schedule your annual foot exam

Managing Your Diabetes

DCVAMC Performance for Diabetes Care Compared with VA Goals. (Oct. and Nov. 2008)



DCVAMC exceeded VA goal for BP control but did not meet VA goals for A1C level and LDL-cholesterol for Oct. and Nov. 2008.

DCVAMC Puts the Spin on Vertigo

It may look like a prop lifted from the Terminator movie, but DCVAMC audiologists' new rotary chair provides state-of-the-art technology to assess and monitor progress of patients with dizziness and balance disorders.

The patient dons infrared video goggles, is strapped into the rotary chair in a dark round room and the chair rotates back and forth in an arc and circular motion.

A computer controls the chair's movement and records a patient's eye movements.

The results of the high technology rotary chair are paired with traditional testing methods providing clinicians with more accurate information about

balance problems especially those incurred by some returning combat veterans with mild traumatic brain injury.

According to DCVAMC Audiologist Dr. Judy Schafer, "The rotary chair simulates what naturally happens with quick head movements and the results aren't affected by differences between testers, or things like ear wax."

The rotary chair provides standardized testing and more accurate results.

More accurate assessment helps clinicians develop the patient's treatment plan and monitor the treatment's effects.

"The rotary chair is a revolutionary development in the audiology field," Dr. Schafer said.



Audiology student Sarah Friedman tests the hospital's new diagnostic rotary chair.

Creative Arts Festival Entries Needed!



The Creative Arts Competition provides our Veterans with an opportunity to gain recognition for their creative accomplishments.

Music, Drama, Dance, and Creative Writing entries are now being accepted for the 2009 Washington DC Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Hurry the deadline for Visual Art entries is Feb. 6!

For a complete list of visual art categories, more information or to submit entries, contact: Jon Palks, Supervisory Recreation Therapist
Telephone: 202-745 8447

Senator Daniel Akaka Brings Aloha to DCVAMC



Senator Daniel Akaka from Hawaii paid a visit to the Medical Center. Senator Akaka serves as the Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.



My HealtheVet is the VA's award-winning online Personal Health Record. It offers veterans every where, any time internet access to VA health care.

The mission of My HealtheVet is to improve health care for all veterans by providing one-stop access to help them better manage their health, make informed health decisions and store important health and military history information.

Next time you visit the DCVAMC, be sure to stop by the My HealtheVet kiosk in the atrium to register for the MyHealtheVet program.

Once registered, you will be able to: view trusted health information, manage medical appointments, refill prescriptions, check co-pay balances and more!

For more information, call 202-745-8000 #6333 or visit <http://www.myhealth.va.gov>

Let's Hear From You!

Please send your letters to:
Office of Public Affairs (003)
50 Irving Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20422

Visit the DCVAMC website:

www.washingtondc.va.gov for the latest on: health, veteran programs, activities and special events, jobs, and much more!